

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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DEA HQS FOR A AND ENA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: TURBAY INAUGURAL SPEECH STATEMENT ON NARCOTICS

1. 1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE
PORTION OF PRESIDENT TURBAY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS PERTAINING
TO NAROCOTICS ENFORCEMENT:
BEGIN QUOTE: MY GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTING WITHIN THEN
REACH OF ITS POSSIBILITIES TO PREVENT , AMONG OTHER CRIMES,
THE CONTRABAND AND TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS. THIS LATTER
UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD BE MORE CONTROLABLE IF THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT COULD INTERRUPT THE FINANCIAL BACKING THAT THOSE
DRIMINALS RECEIVE FROM THE GREEDY NORTH AMERICAN TRAFFICKERS
AND CONSUMERS.
WITH THE VALUABLE HELP OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE NATION, AND THE SPECIALIZED
ENTITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS, I WILL CONTINUE
THE CAMPAIGN BEGUN BY THE LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION AGAINST
ALL SUCH CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR, AND WHICH UNDER MU
ADMINISTRATION WILL TAKE THE FORM OF AN IMPLACABLE CRUSADE.
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WE WILL LOCK UP SUCH CRIMINALS AND REDUCE THEM TO CRIMINAL
IMPOTENCE. END QUOTE.

2. BEGIN COMMENT: THIS STRONG, INITIAL STATEMENT OF
POLICY IS IN LINE WITH TURBAY'S PREVIOUS ASSURANCES TO
THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD CONDUCT AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN
AGAINST TRAFFICKING. IT BODES WELL FOR THE FUTURE OF

THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM HERE, BUT, OF COURSE, MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON THE VIGOR AND INITIATIVE THAT TURBAY DEMONSTRATES IN TRANSLATING HIS WORDS INTO CONCRETE ACTIONS.

E. THE NARCOTICS STATEMENT WAS INCLUDED IN THE PORTION OF THE ADDRESS DEVOTED TO RELATIONS WITH THE US AND WAS PREFACED BY A REFERENCE TO A RECENT MESSAGE TO TURBAY FROM PRESIDENT CARTER OFFERING ASSISTANCE "IN THOSE JOINT ENTERPRISES THAT DEMAND THE DETERMINED PARTICIPATION OF BOTH COUNTRIES." IN TURBAY'S CALL FOR USG INTERRUPTION OF THE FINANCIAL BACKING OF THE DRUG TRADE BY NORTH AMERICAN TRAFFICKERS AND CONSUMERS, THERE IS THE CUSTOMARY POINT MADE BY COLOMBIANS OF JOINT US RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DELETERIOUS SITUATION EXISTING IN THIS COUNTRY.

4. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT TURBAY IN LISTING THE GOC ENTITIES WHOSE SUPPORT HE WOULD DRAW UPON IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM LISTS THE ARMED FORCES FIRST. UP TO THE PRESENT, THE MILITARY HAS NOT PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE, BUT HAS PROVIDED SUPPORT ON AN AD HOC BASIS IN OPERATIONS BY OTHER ENTITIES, AND ON RARE OCCASIONS HAS ACTED ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE. TURBAY MAY BE INDICATING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE MILITARY.

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5. THE REFERENCE TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS AN APPARENT RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THAT ENTITY AT THE PRESENT TIME. IT IS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR TO WHAT "SPECIALIZED ENTITIES" TURBAY IS REFERRING OR THE ROLE HE HAS IN MIND FOR THEM.
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